



SIR,

YOU may perceive by the inclosed Brief for rebuilding the Cathedral Church of *St. Paul*, how much His Majesty is concerned to have this Work carried on, and in what particular manner He recommends it to the *Goy of London*; and therefore I am commanded, not only to send you the Briefs, but to excite you to a more than ordinary care and diligence in promoting so good a Work, and which tends so much to the Honour of this City.

I am sensible what Objections a Work of this nature is like to meet with in our Age; wherein some love to cavil at whatever relates to God and his Worship; and especially if it be like to cost them any thing; others who seem very zealous for some kind of Religion, are for enjoying it on as cheap and easy terms as may be; and many of those who declare a good will to this Work, yet express great dissatisfaction both as to this method of proceeding, and the time we have chosen, which they think very unsuitable to such a design. If we either respect the present State of the City or Nation. So that till such Objections be removed out of mens minds, there is little reason to expect they should make any free and cheerful Contributions; and if I can be any way serviceable therein, I shall think my time and pains well employed in writing and sending this Letter to you.

It is a principle among those who love a stately and pompous Religion, that whatever is beyond the bounds and measures of necessity and conveniency in the Worship of God, is vain and superfluous, and therefore deserves no encouragement at all. I do not wonder at this principle in those men who measure their Religion by their Interest, and choose that which brings them the best Trade, and saves them the most expense. But there are many well meaning persons among us, who look on what is great and Magnificent as unsuitable to the times of the Gospel, and only proper for that dispensation, wherein God declared, *That he loved the Gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob*. But I desire such to consider that we Worship the same God, who gave order for the building of *Salomon's Temple*; not merely for the conveniency of that way of Worship; but with all the Splendour and Greatness which was agreeable to the Majesty of that God who was Worshipped therein. For since it was the House of God, the sense of nature did teach the Jews as well as Gentiles, that it ought to bear some proportion to the Greatness of Him who dwelt in it: And that is the reason given by *Salomon* to *King Hiram*, *And the House which I build is great, for great is our God above all gods*. Hath not God made the most glorious Temple for himself in Heaven, and adorned it after such a manner, as all the Wit and Art of His Creatures can never exactly describe or imitate? And the Jews think, not without reason, that the fashion of their Temple was designed on purpose to represent in little, the far more Magnificent Temple which God had framed for His own Glory in the Fabrick of the World. And certainly, it is no part of the Ceremonial Law, so Worship God in a way agreeable to those conceptions of His Greatness, which the Works of His Hands suggest unto us. Under the Gospel, I grant, that Christ hath altered the way of Worship which was used among the Jews; and now we are no longer tied to make any part of the places dedicated to God's Worship, a kind of *Shew-bread* by slaying the Beasts for sacrifice, but must we therefore make them *Sodden*? There is a natural Decency and Fineness to be observed in those things which Christ hath never taken away, no more than he hath their separation from common use; the destroying whereof brings such rudeness and Barbarism into Religion, as even the *Turks* and *Sophies* abhor. And although Christ appeared in a low and mean condition in the World, as most suitable to the design of His coming, yet even when He lay in the Manger, He had *Gold*, and *Frankincense*, and *Mirra* offered him (which were all rich and costly presents) and that by *Wise Men*. And when He was to be buried, His Body was Embalmed before-hand with a costly Ointment; and we know what a severe check Christ himself gave to him that said, *To what purpose is all this Waste*? although at the same time he pretended great Charity to the Poor. It was the Poverty and Persecution of the Primitive Christians, which made them at any time to Worship God in Chambers and Grots. For as soon as they had any respite and ease, they erected lofty and beautiful Churches, as *Epiphanius* relates; and the first Christian Emperours shewed their zeal in the Splendour and Magnificence of the Churches which they built; and not only the Emperours themselves, but the best Christians of those times thought this to be for the Honour of Christ and of the Christian Religion. And do these men indeed think, that building great Houses for themselves, and adorning them with the richest Furniture, or raising of Families, and heaping up vast Treasures, is more agreeable to the Design of the Gospel, than serving God in a Reverend and Magnificent Church?

But if none of these things will move them, let them consider this Work, as a Design which will employ many poor men for many years (and this they cannot deny to be a Work of Charity.) Let them look on it as an Ornament of the City, as an Honour of the Nation, as like to be a standing Monument of Protestant Affection to good and publick Works; and on such Accounts as these, we are sure there can be no scruple of Conscience against it.

But others say, *Their own Parish Churches are not built, and therefore it cannot be expected they should do any thing yet towards the Cathedral.* I am heartily sorry for the occasion of this Objection in any parts of the City; and God forbid that we should hinder the Building of any of the Parochial Churches; but I do not understand how this will do it. All that we desire is, That the *Mother-Church* may not be forgotten, while the others are rising so fast out of their Ruines, and so many of them are already finished with extraordinary beauty and conveniency. For, however length of time hath made the relation to be almost forgotten between the Mother-Church and the rest; yet for some Ages of the Christian Church, whatever other conveniencies they might have for assembling together, there was but one Church in a City which had a *Baptistery* belonging to it, that all the Christians being there Baptized, might own their relation to the Mother-Church. And although, since the great increase of the number of Christians, it hath been thought fit to have the Sacraments Administred in Parochial Churches, yet it ought to be considered, that this Church is properly the *City Church*, to which our Princes on extraordinary occasions, and the Governours of the City have alwaies resorted, and where the Worship of God hath been more solemnly performed, and the Word of God set forth by Preachers chosen out from the Universities, and all parts of the Kingdom, to the great Honour as well as satisfaction of this City. And it ought not to be forgotten, that the envious City to this for Trade and Riches, hath not only built a Stathouse, but a Magnificent Church too at their own Charges; and it will be no great reputation to London to fall so much short of *Amsterdam* in zeal for the publick Worship of God.

But why should the burden lie on the City which hath suffered so much of late by a dreadful Fire? This were indeed a terrible Objection, if it had been made in the Ruines of the City; but thanks be to the Wonderful Providence of God Almighty, we have lived to see the City rise with a Splendour and Greatness so far surpassing whatever it had before, that this were enough to put us in mind of building the House of God in a way suitable to the present Grandeur of the City. I do not think that in all respects the Prophet's Argument will reach our case, *Is it time for You, O ye, to dwell in your Cycled Houses, and this House lie Waste?* but yet methinks, those who have already laid out so many thousands on a Monument of the dreadful Fire, should think themselves as much concerned to contribute freely towards a Monument of the Resurrection of the City after it, and what can be more proper for that, than the Re-building *St. Pauls*?

Lastly, Those who have nothing else to Object against this Work, find fault with the Season, as very ill chosen by us, when so many Burdens and Taxes lie already on the City, and men are still afraid of more. As though the Season were of our own choosing! Whereas the true state of the Case is this: As long as our Stock held out any waies proportionably to the expence, we went on chearfully and with great diligence; and we may say it without vanity, the Stock we had hath been managed with as much care and good Husbandry, as of any publick Building whatsoever. But when we found that we could not carry on the Work without farther Supplies; What should we do? Should we let the Work stand still without trying other waies? Then we might have justly suffered under the Clamours which would have been made against us, that the Work might have gone on, if we had not been careless and negligent; that the City would, no doubt, give very considerable Supplies, if they were but asked; that in the former repairs the *Chamber of London* gave two hundred pounds *per annum* for ten years; besides the liberal Contributions of the Aldermen and of the *Wards*, and *Companies*; that it was not to be supposed, the City should be less able, or less willing than it was at that time; that a very easie Rate upon the New-built and Inhabited Houses would serve to finish the *Choir*; that but a fourth part of the Rate for the Poor in all the Parishes of *England* would go very far towards the Body of the Church; that no Citizen of *London* would ever refuse doing something towards it; that at least it was but our trying this Way, and if it did not succeed, we need not doubt at last of the Kindness both of *King* and *Parliament*. Upon such Discourses as these, it was thought fit by the Commissioners to make an Address to His Majesty, for Authority to gather Contributions, which out of His Royal Clemency and great readiness to promote this Work, He was pleased to grant us. And now the time is Unseasonable! as though it were ever otherwise, to those who have no mind to it! But is it ever unseasonable to do Praise-worthy, pious and generous actions? We do not desire men to impoverish themselves to Re-build *St. Pauls*, but to give freely and chearfully; and in such a proportion as other publick occasions will permit, and as will be no hindrance to the concernment of their Trade or Families. For our Fears of future burdens and Troubles, can we do better to prevent them than to be full of good Works? And if we were as full of Troubles, as we are of Fears, we may remember that the *City* and *Temple of Jerusalem* were fore-told to be Built in *troubled times*; but thanks be to God, we yet enjoy Peace and Tranquillity; our Port is full of Ships; our City of Trade, and there is great store of Riches among many, who without any considerable diminution to their Stock, may contribute freely to this great Work.

I am

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I am glad the Clergy of this City have already shewed so good an Example to others by their own Subscriptions; and therefore we are the more encouraged to hope for your chearful assistance in procuring Subscriptions and Contributions from others, and your diligence in pursuing the Directions contained in the Brief it self. I am

Your Affectionate Brother and Servant,
Edw. Stillington, Dean of St. Pauls,
and Arch-Deacon of London.

For the better satisfaction of all Persons concerning the present state of the Building, I have Annexed a brief Abstract of it; and for the encouragement of others to Subscribe now, I have adjoynd some of the Subscriptions made in this City towards the former Repairs.

S^t. PAUL's Church, LONDON.

A Brief Account of the Receipts and Disbursements for the Re- building the said Church.

Remained in Cash in the Chamber of London, the first day of May, 1674. (when the Work was first begun) upon the Coal Duty at 4 ^d . ½. per Chaldron	l. s. d. 12038 05 03.	l. s. d. 12707 01 02.
Upon free Gifts, Legacies, &c.	00668 15 11.	l. s. d. 40325 10 34.
Brought more into the Chamber aforesaid upon the said Duty of Coals; from the said first of May, 1674. to the first of May, 1678.	18144 04 01 ½.	27818 09 14.
And upon free Gifts, &c.	09674 05 00 ½.	
Out of which hath been paid and disbursed in the said Building from the said first day of May, 1674. to the first of May, 1678. in- cluding the Carting away of 28000 Loads of Rubbish; break- ing up 11133 cubical yards of old Foundation Walls, with Scaffolding, and taking down old Walls, amounting to 4000l. and upwards		33000 00 00. 16000 00 00.
Besides there is due upon a reasonable conjecture for Scaffolding and other Materials, Masons work not yet measured, the several Accounts not being yet Audited		03000 00 00.

Subscriptions towards the Repairs of S^t. PAUL's, 1631, &c.

The CITIES Gift, Feb. 21.

The free Gift of the City out of the Chamber of London, by order of the Lord Major and Court of Aldermen, the sum of two hundred pounds per annum for ten years. The ninth annual payment I find received Feb. 10. 1639.

The

The COMPANIES.

The Company of Merchant-Taylors subscribed the sum of five hundred pounds to be paid by fifty pounds <i>per annum</i> , for ten years; the first payment to begin before <i>Easter</i> , 1632.	} 50 ^{l.} <i>per annum</i> for ten years.
The Company of Gold-smiths four hundred pounds	50 ^{l.} <i>per annum</i> for eight years.
The Company of Grocers three hundred and fifty pounds	50 ^{l.} <i>per annum</i> for seven years.
The Company of Vintners one hundred pounds to be paid before the last of <i>Jan.</i> 1631.	
The Company of Salters one hundred and forty pounds, forty pounds in present, and the remainder at	} 20 ^{l.} <i>per annum</i> for five years.
The Company of Skinners the sum of two hundred and eighty pounds at	} 40 ^{l.} <i>per annum</i> for seven years.
The Company of Girdlers	10 ^{l.} <i>per annum</i> for seven years.
The Company of Ironmongers	20 ^{l.} <i>per annum</i> for five years.
The Company of Cloth-workers	40 ^{l.} <i>per annum</i> for five years.
The Company of Stationers	15 ^{l.} <i>per annum</i> for ten years.
The Company of Fishmongers	} 50 ^{l.} <i>per annum</i> , of which I find the seventh payment.
The Company of Haberdashers	} 30 ^{l.} <i>per annum</i> , of which I find the eighth payment.

I omit the other Companies, these being the most considerable for Subscriptions.

ALDERMEN, 1631.

	l.	s.	d.
Sir John Lemar	30	00	00.
And left by him, 1632.	50	00	00.
Sir Robert Ducie	50	00	00.
Sir George Whitmore	20	00	00.
Alderman Bromfield	50	00	00.
Sir James Campbell	20	00	00.
Sir William Alton	20	00	00.
Sir John Gore	20	00	00.
Alderman Pool	15	00	00.
Alderman Backhouse	15	00	00.

&c.

Sir Paul Pinder's extraordinary bounty ought never to be forgotten, who besides what he did towards adorning the Quire, gave to the South end 4000^{l.}

WARDS, 1633.

Langborn Ward	209	09	00.
Broadstreet Ward	103	02	03.
Farringdon Without	250	07	03.
Bassishaw Ward	056	13	06.
Aldgate Ward	156	09	10.
Farringdon Without, more	126	00	02.
Candlewickstreet Ward	050	00	00.
Bishopsgate Ward	041	05	10.
Farringdon Within	334	08	04.
Limestreet Ward	039	17	09.
Tower Ward	153	00	00.
Aldersgate Ward	077	05	02.
Cripplegate Ward	045	16	04.
More of the same	110	07	00.
Vintry Ward	065	04	06.

These I have only mention'd as a Taste of the readiness of the City at that time, and they are faithfully extracted out of the Books of the Receipts then kept in the Chamber of *London*.

Imprimatur.

Dat. xxx. Mai.

1678.

H. London.